



History of MPERS



MPERS Executive Directors (from left):

David DeWitt: 7/1/1991 - 12/31/1993

Norm Robinson: 2/10/1994 - 6/30/2008

Susie Dahl: 7/1/2008 - 8/31/2012

Scott Simon: 9/1/2012 - Present

(Absent) Terry Porterfield: 8/13/1988 - 6/30/1991

In 1955, Senate Bill 66 was passed, and the Highway and Transportation Employees' and Highway Patrol Retirement System (HTEHPRS) was established. The bill became effective August 29, 1955. On October 1, 1955, the System accepted 109 retirements.

Legislation to grant retirement benefits to long-term employees was the result of work done by some industrious employees of the State Highways Commission, the State Highway Patrol, and the Highway Employees' Association. Those involved negotiated an arrangement with the State Highways Commission to forego a future employee raise in order to fund the first contributions of the retirement system. In the initial negotiations, it was agreed that the new retirement system would be funded by contributions from the employees of the State Highways Commission and Missouri State Highway Patrol and by contributions from the two agencies. The initial contribution rate for both employees and employers was 4%.

In the late 1970's, legislation was passed to make the retirement system non-contributory for members, with the only contributions being made by the Highways Commission and Highway Patrol going forward. The System remains non-contributory for members of the Closed Plan and the Year 2000 Plan. Employees hired for the first time on or after January 1, 2011 pay a 4% contribution under the 2011 Tier.

For the first 35 years of its existence, the retirement system was operated as a unit of the State Highways Commission. Highway staff was assigned on a part-time basis to carry out the System's business.

In 1988, the first Executive Director position was established. As the membership base and the assets of the System grew, it became clear that full-time staff would be required to provide continuity and direction to improve and advance the System. Since that time, numerous staff positions have been added. Today, the System employs 15 full-time staff.

The System operates as an independent trust fund under the direction of an 11-member Board of Trustees. In June 2002, a building was



purchased to provide a permanent home for the retirement system. This step was taken to ensure the System could provide a comfortable, accessible environment for members to meet with staff to discuss their benefits.

The System is now known as the MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) and provides retirement, survivor, and disability benefits to over 18,000 members. As of April 30, 2013, the trust has approximately \$1.679 billion in assets.

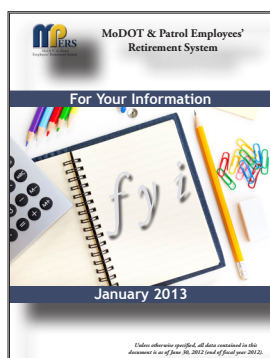
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Brochures Available on www.mpers.org

For your convenience, the following informational brochures are posted on the MPERS website. The brochures provide a good source of general information. However, to answer specific questions regarding your particular situation, we recommend you contact a MPERS benefit specialist.

If there is any difference between the information provided in the brochures and the laws or policies which govern MPERS, the laws and policies will prevail.



"For Your Information"

Want to learn more about MPERS itself? This brochure provides a comprehensive summary of facts, figures, and a little historical information regarding membership, funding the system, contribution rates, and investment performance.



"myMPERS: Secure Member Access"

Information regarding your retirement benefit is available 24 hours per day on our website. This brochure explains how to log in, run benefit estimates, submit your *Notice of Retirement* online, etc.

"Leaving State Employment"

How will leaving state employment prior to retirement affect your benefit payment? This brochure is full of answers to the most common questions. However, we highly recommend that you contact a MPERS benefit specialist to discuss your individual situation.



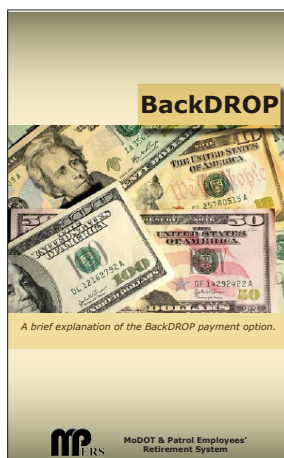
"Comparison of Closed Plan & Year 2000 Plan"

At retirement, Closed Plan members may elect to remain in the Closed Plan or switch to the Year 2000 Plan. This brochure gives you a side-by-side comparison of the benefit provisions and discusses those items you should think about before electing a plan.



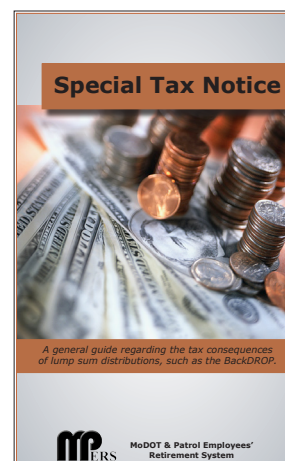
"2011 Tier"

Employees hired for the first time in a benefit eligible position on or after January 1, 2011 are members of the contributory 2011 Tier. This brochure is an "at-a-glance" guide to the 2011 Tier benefit provisions.



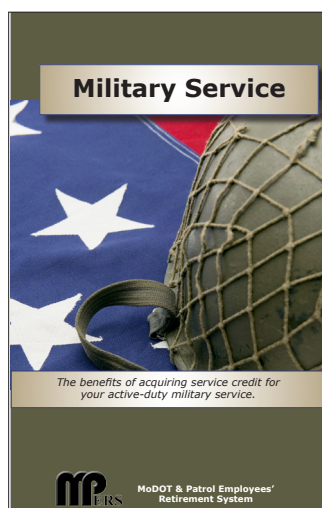
"BackDROP"

If you're thinking about retirement, you're probably thinking about BackDROP (*if eligible*). This brochure explains your BackDROP date and BackDROP period. In addition, it provides a sample calculation of a lump sum distribution (*for illustrative purposes only*).



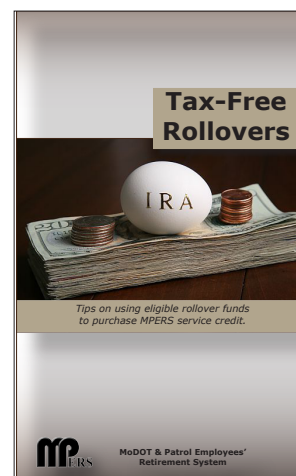
"Special Tax Notice"

Lump sum distributions, such as the BackDROP, are considered taxable income. This brochure provides a general guide regarding the tax consequences of receiving a lump sum distribution from MPERS.



"Military Service"

The more service you have, the higher your retirement benefit amount. In some instances, you may be eligible to retire at an earlier date. If you had active-duty military service prior to working for the state, you owe it to yourself to see how the service credit might affect your retirement benefit. Also, if you have been on a military leave of absence during your state career, make sure you received service credit for that period of active duty (if eligible).



"Tax-Free Rollovers"

Planning to purchase your military or prior public employment service credit? You may use eligible rollover funds, such as money in your Deferred Compensation, to purchase MPERS service credit.



"Divorce"

This brochure provides general information explaining how divorce might affect your MPERS retirement benefit.

If you are vested, your retirement benefit is considered marital property. If you have been married at any time while earning service credit in a state position and you are considering divorce, your spouse may be legally entitled to receive up to 50% of your retirement benefit earned while married.

2-Step Retirement Process

Applying for retirement is a 2-step process that is designed to give you more time to make your retirement elections and allows MPERS to provide you with more individualized information. ***Please note that the names of the 2-step process forms have been changed to better reflect the purpose of the form.***

Step 1: Notice of Retirement *(form previously named Notification of Intent to Retire)*

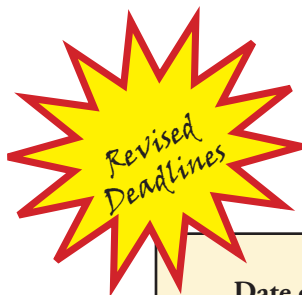
To start the retirement process, you must submit a completed *Notice of Retirement* form to MPERS *(can be submitted online)*. This form provides MPERS with your intended date of retirement and your spouse's date of birth *(if married)*. MPERS will use this information to generate your individualized benefit estimate(s) and *Retirement Election Form*.

Step 2: Retirement Election Form *(form previously named Application for Retirement)*

MPERS will send you an individualized *Retirement Election Form* and benefit estimate(s) in the mail. The election form will show only the retirement options for which you are eligible (e.g. benefit payment option, retirement plan, and BackDROP). The benefit estimate(s) will provide the information needed to make informed decisions.

Date Forms are Due at MPERS

Based on your intended date of retirement, the notification and election form must be **received at MPERS** by the dates listed on the chart below. **Submitting either form after the deadlines listed on the chart below will delay your retirement date, which means your benefit payment will be delayed.**



2-Step Retirement Process Deadlines

Date of Retirement	Step 1: <i>Notice of Retirement</i> Due at MPERS	Step 2: <i>Retirement Election Form</i> Due at MPERS
January 1	November 30	December 31
February 1	December 31	January 31
March 1	January 31	February 28
April 1	February 28	March 31
May 1	March 31	April 30
June 1	April 30	May 31
July 1	May 31	June 30
August 1	June 30	July 31
September 1	July 31	August 31
October 1	August 31	September 30
November 1	September 30	October 31
December 1	October 31	November 30

2-Step Retirement Process


Submitting Your "Notice of Retirement"

For your convenience, the *Notice of Retirement* form can be completed and submitted online at **www.mpers.org**.

If you prefer to submit a paper copy, the form is available:

- Online at **www.mpers.org** (download)
- By contacting MPERS
- From your employer

Sample: Notice of Retirement

 MoDOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System PO Box 1930 · Jefferson City, MO 65102-1930 Phone: (573) 298-6080 · (800) 270-1271 Fax: (573) 522-6111 · Email: mpers@modot.mo.gov Website: www.mpers.org		Step 1: Notice of Retirement 1. Complete & submit this form to start the retirement process. 2. Attach acceptable proof-of-age document. 3. If married, attach acceptable proof-of-age document for your spouse and copy of marriage license. 4. Send form and attachments to MPERS by deadline.	
Member Information			
Intended Date of Retirement: Month / 01 / Year		Date of Retirement can only be the first day of the month.	
Social Security Number:		Date of Birth: mm/dd/yy	
Name: (Last)		Name: (First) (MI)	
Mailing Address: (City) (State) (Zip Code)			
Home Phone: () () ()	Work Phone: () () ()	Cell Phone: () () ()	Email Address:
Do you have any of the following prior service credit that could increase your MPERS' service? If so, we recommend you contact a MPERS' benefit specialist as soon as possible at (800) 270-1271. The more service you have, the higher your benefit amount. Prior service must be purchased/transferred before completing your <i>Retirement Election Form</i> (Step 2). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service under MOSERS, MoDOT, or Highway Patrol for which you have <u>not</u> received credit.• U.S. Armed Forces service (active, reserve, or national guard).• Full-time, non-federal public agency service in Missouri (county/city government, public school, university).• Service as a commissioned police officer for city or county police agency (uniformed members only).			
Marital Status and Spouse Information			
Married members may select a joint and survivor option, which provides a continuing monthly benefit to your eligible spouse after your death. If you are married, please submit an acceptable proof-of-age document and copy of your marriage license. This information will allow us to provide you with a more accurate benefit estimate.			
→ Marital status on the Date of Retirement (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married (must provide spouse info)			
Spouse's Name: (Last)		Spouse's Name: (First) (MI)	
Spouse's Social Security Number:		Date of Birth: mm/dd/yy	
Date of Marriage: mm/dd/yy			
To the MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) Board of Trustees: As an employee or former employee of the state of Missouri, I hereby submit my <i>Notice of Retirement</i> to begin receiving retirement benefits from MPERS. If I should die before my date of retirement, I understand this notification will be null and void. I hereby certify that all information contained in this <i>Notice of Retirement</i> is true and correct.			
Member Signature:		Date:	


Important Notice

MPERS sends a report to MoDOT and MSHP each month listing those who have submitted a *Notice of Retirement* form or a *Retirement Election Form*.

ELECTION(S) CANNOT BE CHANGED:

- Election(s) made at retirement cannot be changed after your first payment is sent.
- We encourage you to meet with a MPERS benefit specialist prior to making your retirement elections.

Sample: Retirement Election Form

 MoDOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System PO Box 1930 · Jefferson City, MO 65102-1930 Phone: (573) 298-6080 · (800) 270-1271 Fax: (573) 522-6111 · Email: mpers@modot.mo.gov Website: www.mpers.org		Step 2: Retirement Election Form	
Member Information			
Social Security Number:		Date of Retirement:	
Date of Birth:		Marital Status:	
Spouse's DOB:			
Name: (Last, First MI)			
Mailing Address: (Address, City, State Zip Code)			
Home Phone:		Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:		Email Address:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check box to receive MPERS correspondence by email.			
Uniformed Patrol Retirees Only: Do you plan to be gainfully employed after retirement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Retirement Benefit Elections			
Select a Retirement Plan		Year 2000 Plan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Plan If you elect the Closed Plan, all elections must be made in this column.		<input type="checkbox"/> Year 2000 Plan If you elect the Year 2000 Plan, all elections must be made in this column.	
Select a Benefit Payment Option*		Only retirees who are married on the date of retirement may elect Options 1 & 2:	
<input type="checkbox"/> #1: Unreduced Joint & 50% Survivor <input type="checkbox"/> #2: Joint & 100% Survivor Anyone may elect Options 3, 4, & 5: <input type="checkbox"/> #3: Life Income Annuity Name beneficiary to receive your final benefit payment from MPERS. <input type="checkbox"/> #4: 60 Guaranteed Payments <input type="checkbox"/> #5: 120 Guaranteed Payments Name beneficiary(ies) to receive final and remaining guaranteed payments (if any).		<input type="checkbox"/> #1: Joint & 50% Survivor <input type="checkbox"/> #2: Joint & 100% Survivor Anyone may elect Options 3, 4, & 5: <input type="checkbox"/> #3: Life Income Annuity Name beneficiary to receive your final benefit payment from MPERS. <input type="checkbox"/> #4: 120 Guaranteed Payments <input type="checkbox"/> #5: 180 Guaranteed Payments Name beneficiary(ies) to receive final and remaining guaranteed payments (if any).	
See explanation of benefit payment options on reverse side of form.			
BackDROP Election: (only if eligible for BackDROP)			
Select a BackDROP Period			
<input type="checkbox"/> If your benefit estimate included BackDROP, please make your election below: <input type="checkbox"/> I do <u>not</u> wish to elect the BackDROP. <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to elect the _____ year / _____ maximum BackDROP period. (Based on your BackDROP estimate, enter number of years or check box for maximum BackDROP period)			
(If Electing Options 3, 4, or 5) Beneficiary Designation for Final Payment and/or Remaining Guaranteed Payments			
Primary Beneficiary Name:		Social Security Number:	
Date of Birth:			
Mailing Address: (City)		(State) (Zip Code)	
Contingent Beneficiary Name:		Social Security Number:	
Date of Birth:			
Mailing Address: (City)		(State) (Zip Code)	
To the MoDOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) Board of Trustees: I hereby make retirement benefit elections to which I am entitled under the provisions of MPERS. If applicable, I agree to act as a special consultant and to abide by the provisions of the statutes by being available to give opinions in writing or orally, in response to requests by the Board. I hereby confirm that I have no additional prior service credit that I wish to purchase or transfer to MPERS. I understand these elections cannot be changed after my first benefit payment has been made. If I should die before my date of retirement, I understand this election form will be null and void.			
Member Signature:		Date:	
*If you are married at retirement, and elect payment options #3, #4, or #5, your spouse must sign this form below. I hereby confirm that I am the spouse of the member named in this election form. I acknowledge that the payment option elected by my spouse provides me with no survivor benefits from MPERS. I give my consent to this election.			
Spouse's Signature:		Date:	

Pre-Retirement Seminars

"The great aim of education is not knowledge, it's action."

Pre-Retirement Seminars

Each year, MPERS mails an invitation to:

**Members who are currently eligible to retire
and those who will be eligible within 5 years.**

The invitation contains instructions on how to **register online** for the seminar.

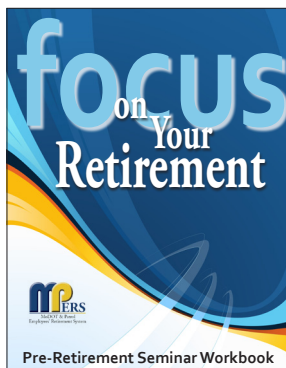
Seminar Registration Must Be Completed Online

*Please follow the instructions on your invitation
to register for the seminar online.*

1. Go to **www.mpers.org**
2. Click on the **Seminar Enrollment** link in the left menu.
3. Enter your **Username and Password**. If you do **not** have a Username and Password, click on **Create Login** to create these items.
4. Click on **Register Online** in the left-side menu.
5. Click on **Details** for the seminar you wish to attend.
6. Follow the instructions to register for the seminar. Please indicate on the registration form if you will be bringing a guest.

**Important
Reminder!**

*Each registered member attending
the seminar will receive a
Pre-Retirement Seminar Workbook
and a benefit estimate.*



*Pre-Retirement
Seminar Workbook*

Detailed schedule available at **www.mpers.org**

2013 Pre-Retirement Seminar Schedule

May 21 - Macon (p.m. only)
May 22 - Hannibal (a.m. & p.m.)
June 6 - Jefferson City (a.m. & p.m.)
June 7 - Jefferson City (a.m. only)
July 18 - Sikeston (a.m. & p.m.)
July 24 - Salem (p.m. only)
August 7 - Joplin (p.m. only)
August 8 - Springfield (a.m. & p.m.)
August 21 - St. Louis (p.m. only)
August 22 - St. Louis (a.m. & p.m.)
September 10 - Willow Springs (p.m. only)
September 13 - Jefferson City (a.m. & p.m.)

Session Times

<u>A.M. Session</u>		<u>P.M. Session</u>	
7:00	Check-in opens	11:45	Check-in opens
7:30	Seminar begins	12:15	Seminar begins
11:45	Seminar ends	4:30	Seminar ends

MPERS Topics Covered at a Pre-Retirement Seminar

- Planning for retirement
- Applying for retirement
- Payment calculations
- Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)
- BackDROP
- Benefit payment options
- Death before/after retirement
- How divorce affects your benefit
- Reemployment after Retirement

Benefit Basics and Workplace Possibilities

Benefit Basics Seminar

Quite often at Pre-Retirement Seminars, we hear, "I wish someone would have told me this earlier."

Benefit Basics provides the perfect opportunity for you to learn more about your retirement and disability benefits, at any point in your career.

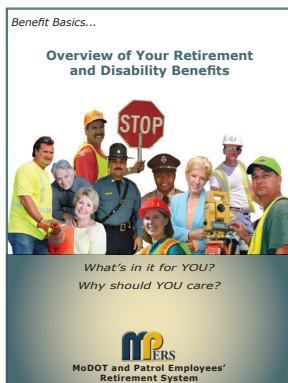
Seminar Schedule:

As requested by your employer.
To make it economically feasible,
there is a minimum attendance of 30.

Intended Audience:

Anyone can attend.

***Each attendee will receive a
Benefit Basics Workbook.***



*Benefit Basics
Workbook*

Topics Covered at a Benefit Basics Seminar

- Who (or what) is MPERS?
- The Value of your MPERS benefit
- Earning service credit
- Death before retirement
- Eligibility for retirement
- Benefit calculation
- 2-step retirement process
- Benefit payment options
- How divorce affects your benefit



NEW

Workplace Possibilities Program

The Standard Insurance Company, our disability plan carrier, offers the Workplace Possibilities program to assist employees who may be affected by an illness or medical condition by offering consultations that may lead to providing accommodations or services to promote a healthier workplace.

Examples could include ergonomic evaluation for specialized seating, sit/stand work station (for those who need to change positions frequently throughout the work day), lifting devices, specialized shoes, etc.

Each employee's situation is unique and each employee deserves and receives individualized, respectful attention to his/her difficulties. The guiding belief of the program is that work is important, valuable, promotes independence, gives a sense of purpose, and contributes to the socioeconomic development of society.

The employer can provide employees with a handout explaining the Workplace Possibilities program and the related forms. The employer will also provide the Workplace Possibilities consultant with the employee's contact information, so that an initial contact can be made to answer any additional questions and provide assistance in completing the forms, if necessary.

The following website provides some examples of how employees have benefited from this program:

<http://workplacepossibilities.com/>

MPERS Board of Trustees



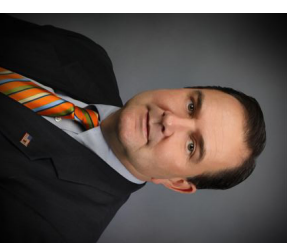
Major J. Bret Johnson
Board Chair
MSHP Employee
Representative



Lloyd "Joe" Carmichael
Board Vice-Chair
Highways & Transportation
Commissioner



Rudy Farber
Highways & Transportation
Commissioner



Senator Mike Kehoe
Appointed by the President
Pro Tem of the Senate



Dave Nichols
Director of MoDOT
Ex-Officio Member



Rep. Don Phillips
Appointed by the
Speaker of the House



Colonel Ron Replogle
Superintendent of the MSHP
Ex-Officio Member



Bob Sfraddo
MoDOT Retiree
Representative



Roger Stottlemyre
MSHP Retiree
Representative



Kenneth Suelthaus
Highways & Transportation
Commissioner



Vacant
MoDOT Employee
Representative

MPERS' Mission Statement

"To provide a basic level of financial security to plan participants by delivering quality benefits and exceptional customer service through professional plan administration and prudent management of system assets."

MPERS' Vision Statement

"To be the best retirement system we can be by making strategic investment decisions and implementing technological tools that streamline our processes and enhance customer service."

2013 Board Meeting Schedule

The MPERS Board of Trustees is required to meet at least quarterly. The remaining 2013 meetings are as follows:

June 20 at 1:00 p.m.
September 26 at 11:00 a.m.
November 21 at 1:00 p.m.

These dates are subject to change. An agenda for each meeting is posted on our website and in our office lobby at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



2013 Legislative Update

The 2013 Legislative Session began January 9th and ends May 17th. Below is a brief summary of the retirement-related legislative bills that have been introduced. If these bills start moving through the legislative process, MPERS will provide you with more detailed information regarding the contents of the bill. *For your convenience, each bill number is a link to the bill.*

[HB 129](#)

This bill proposes changes to the observed holidays for state employees and establishes the state employee retirement incentive program. Under the bill, the 12th day of February (Lincoln's birthday), the 8th day of May (Truman's birthday), and the 2nd Monday in October (Columbus Day) will be eliminated as state holidays. In addition, the Friday after Thanksgiving will be observed as a state holiday.

This proposed "2013 State Employee Retirement Incentive Program" is available to active employees who:

1. Have at least 10 years of creditable service,
2. Terminate employment on or after April 1, 2014,
3. Retire on or after May 1, 2014, but no later than July 1, 2014, and
4. Are eligible for normal retirement.

This benefit is described as a "years of service incentive benefit" for an eligible employee with at least 10 years of service. The incentive benefit pays the employee an amount equal to \$500 per year of creditable service up to a maximum of 20 years, or \$10,000. The years of service incentive benefit shall be paid to the member or the member's beneficiary in two equal installments beginning August 2014 and ending in August 2015.

[SB 312](#)

Prohibits a state employee or judge from collecting retirement benefits while employed full time by a Missouri city, county, village, or town following retirement from the state or judiciary system.

[SB 477](#)

Creates a defined contribution plan for new employees hired on or after July 1, 2014. There is no set employee contribution rate. The employer rate will be set annually by the General Assembly.

[HB 636](#)

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and each July 1 thereafter, state employees shall receive a salary increase equal to the increased cost of health insurance premiums from the previous calendar year.

[HB 878](#)

Creates a hybrid plan tier in the Year 2000 Plan for members hired on or after January 1, 2014. It is a combination defined benefit (DB) and defined contribution (DC) plan. The primary differences in the proposed hybrid plan and the 2011 Tier are as follows:

DB Changes (compared to 2011 Tier)	DC Provisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 year vesting dropped to 5 years • 1.7% multiplier in benefit calculation lowered to 1% • Employee contribution for the DB component is 3% of pay • The maximum annual COLA rate for retirees/survivors went from 5% to 2% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee contribution is 1% of pay • Employer contribution is 3% of pay

About the System

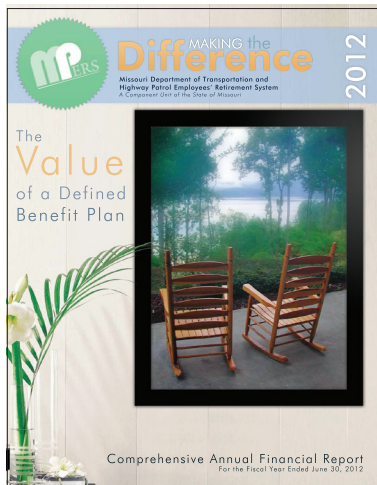
Funding Study Is Misleading

You may have seen an article in the press or heard a report on some other news outlet of late suggesting that Missouri's pension systems, including MPERS, are in poor financial health. A pension study, Public Employee Pensions in Missouri, recently released by the Show-Me Institute suggests that the funding of our system is insufficient and that benefits for retirees are in jeopardy.

The report contends an academic economic theory based on the use of a low discount rate often called a "risk free rate" for expected long-term investment returns. It fails to acknowledge the decades of history these plans have that actually realized a return well in excess of that "risk free rate". What does that mean to the taxpayers? It means that investment returns generally represent over 60% of the assets available to pay benefits. Using a lower risk free discount rate would diminish the impact of investment returns and require considerably higher contribution rates (i.e. taxes) from covered employers.

As a practical matter, the report suggests that pension plans should "eliminate risk" from their business rather than "manage risk". While the report is accurate with regard to the notion that public pension benefits are generally considered "protected" from a legal perspective (i.e. guaranteed), it fails to realize the material savings to the taxpayer from a prudently managed plan that assumes reasonable levels of risk. Wouldn't it make sense for these plans, who employ experienced investment professionals, to manage risk such that we realize a better return and reduce the tax burden necessary to fund these plans before we ask the taxpayer for more money?

As many of you know, MPERS has not always had the best experience with regard to funding the System. That poor experience has resulted in considerably higher contributions today than would have been necessary had the plan been funded accordingly over the years. While there are a few pension plans across the country that are in poor financial health, and MPERS would be included on that list, what sets us apart from most of these plans today is the fact that our Board of Trustees has acknowledged our troubled past and has taken steps to improve our funded status going forward, with an accelerated funding policy. Even with these aggressive steps, our funding status will take time to improve. The important thing to remember is that a plan is in place and it is working. If we fall for the notions of academic studies over real world experience, the light at the end of the tunnel would be hard to see and the cost to taxpayers would increase materially.



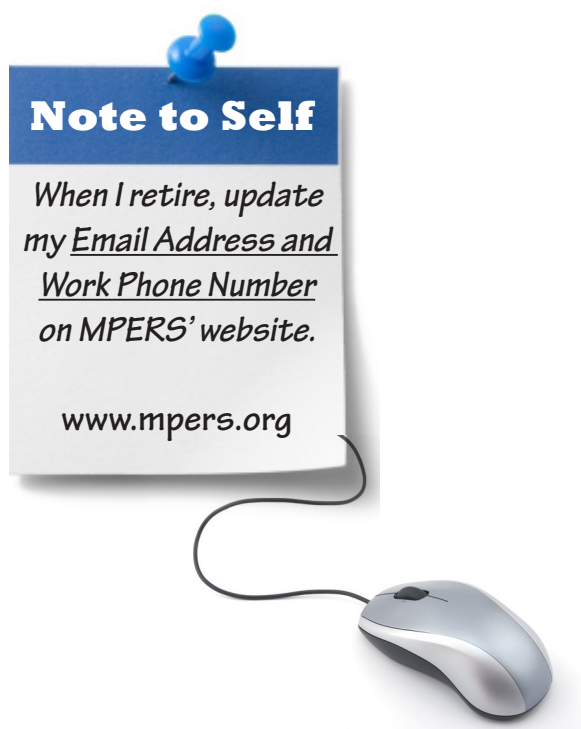
*FY2012 Comprehensive
Annual Financial Report*

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

MPERS is required by law to produce a *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* (CAFR) each year. This report is intended to provide you with a thorough review of the System's operations for the past fiscal year. The report is prepared in October and November and **posted to our website by December 31**. Copies of the report are available upon request.

Sections of the CAFR:

- Introductory (*overview of year and information about MPERS*)
- Financial (*auditor's report and various financial statements of assets and expenses*)
- Investment (*investment reports and overview of activity*)
- Actuarial (*actuary's report and summary of valuation methods and assumptions*)
- Statistical (*various member data for actives, retirees, etc.*)



Direct Deposit: The New Method for Receiving BackDROP Distributions

BackDROP distributions are paid on the last working day of the month in which you retire, along with your first monthly benefit payment.

Rollover Distributions

All rollover distributions are paid electronically, unless the financial institution/plan indicates it cannot accept the payment electronically. In that case, a paper check is prepared and mailed.

Cash Distributions

For your convenience, if you elect the cash option to receive your BackDROP distribution, the funds will be electronically deposited into the same account you specify for your monthly benefit payment.

MPERS is Going Paperless!

This should not come as a big surprise. Little by little, MPERS will be continually enhancing our online/electronic capability. Between printing and postage, going paperless will save the System thousands of dollars.

Currently Available Online

- Secure Member Access to your benefit information - available 24/7
- Run individualized benefit estimates online
- Complete and submit your *Notice of Retirement* online (step 1 of the 2-step retirement process)
- Select email as your preferred method to receive MPERS correspondence
- Board meeting summaries, announcements, and newsletters are automatically sent via email

Online Capabilities (for retirees and survivors)

- Complete and submit a *Substitute W-4P* tax withholding form electronically
- View *1099-R* information
- View details of each benefit payment (year-to-date totals also available)
- View MPERS-related beneficiary designations
- View monthly benefit payments
- Update address (*if benefit paid by direct deposit*)

List of Future Possibilities

- Secure mailbox within Secure Member Access to receive your personalized MPERS correspondence
- Online election of Board of Trustee representative
- More electronic forms
- Short videos on various benefit topics

How to Create Your UserName and Password

MPERS staff does **NOT** have a record of the **UserName** and **Password** you create.

Both items can **ONLY** be retrieved by you online.

Before you can login to
Secure Member Access,
you must create your own
UserName and Password

1 Create Login!

- Click on **Create Login** to create your personal **UserName** and **Password**.
- Follow the instructions to complete the required information.

2 UserName and Password

- Enter the **UserName** and **Password** you created (on MPERS' website) to gain Secure Member Access to your personal information.

3 Forgot Your UserName or Password?

- Click on the appropriate link to retrieve your **UserName** or **Password**. *(Answers to challenge questions are case sensitive and must be entered exactly as you entered them during the Create Login process.)*

****Highway Patrol Employees****

Because of the security settings on your work computers, Patrol employees can enter myMPERS 1 of the 2 following ways - depending if you are using your work computer or home/personal computer:

1. If you are a Highway Patrol employee using your **work computer** to gain Secure Member Access, you must use a different URL, <http://srvrswb.mpers.state.mo.us/wmswebsite> - - - *Secure Access link is provided on the MPERS home page*
2. If using your **home/personal computer**, you can enter Secure Member Services using our regular URL, www.mpers.org

① Active Member Menu Items

Member Information

- **Account Summary** - current years, months, and days of creditable service
- **Demographics** - your contact information and correspondence preferences
- **Estimate a Benefit** - run a benefit estimate based on date first eligible for normal retirement or a specific date
- **Gross-to-Net Benefit** - estimate how much your benefit will be after taxes, medical premiums, etc.
- **Retirement Eligibility** - summary of the age and service requirements for retirement

Forms

- **Online Forms** - downloadable and electronic forms

Seminar

- **Register Online** - register for a Pre-Retirement Seminar *(for those within 5 years of retirement)*

Login Settings

- Make changes to your Secure Member Access login information *(email, password, challenge questions)*

② Demographics - Address/Marital Status

- It is important to keep all demographic information updated!
- For active members, the **SAM II payroll system automatically updates personal information** like address and marital status in MPERS each pay period.
- If the information shown is incorrect, **please contact your HR representative** to update the system.

③ Demographics - Phone & Email Info

- Update your phone number and email address.
- You can also select how you wish to receive correspondence from MPERS under **Correspondence Distribution Preferences**.

Topics of Frequently Asked Questions

Death Before Retirement

Q. Will anyone receive a survivor benefit if I die prior to retirement?

A. Non Duty-Related Death

If you are **vested** and die before retirement, the spouse to whom you are married on the date of your death is eligible to receive survivor benefits. The monthly benefit for the surviving spouse will be:

- Based on the benefit you have accrued as of your date of death.
- Calculated according to the Joint & 100% Survivor Option.

If there is **no** eligible surviving spouse:

- The benefit will be paid to your eligible child(ren) under the age of 21 (divided equally).
 - If the child is under 18 years of age, benefits will be payable to the surviving parent, as natural guardian, or to the legal guardian until the child is age 18.
 - If the child is totally incapacitated, the benefit will be paid for the child's lifetime.
- The benefit will be 80% of your monthly base benefit.

Duty-Related Death

If you die while actively employed and your death is determined to be duty-related by the MPERS Board of Trustees, the spouse to whom you are married on the date of your death is eligible to receive survivor benefits. The monthly benefit for the surviving spouse will be:

- Based on the benefit you have accrued as of your date of death (**no minimum service requirement**).
- The **greater of**: 1) 50% of your final average pay, or 2) the amount calculated according to the Joint & 100% Survivor Option.

If there is **no** eligible surviving spouse:

- The benefit will be paid to your eligible child(ren) under the age of 21 (divided equally).
 - If the child is under 18 years of age, benefits will be payable to the surviving parent, as natural guardian, or to the legal guardian until the child is age 18.
 - If the child is totally incapacitated, the benefit will be paid for the child's lifetime.
- The benefit will be 50% of your final average pay.

Divorce and Your MPERS Benefit

Q. Can my spouse get part of my MPERS retirement benefit?

A. If you are **vested** at the time of divorce, your benefit from MPERS may be considered "marital property." If you have been married at any time while an active member of MPERS and are considering divorce, your spouse may be legally entitled to receive a portion of your retirement benefit. **By law, the court may award your ex-spouse up to 50% of the benefit accrued during your marriage.** The benefit for service accrued before the marriage and after the date of dissolution cannot be divided.

In order to divide your benefit, you must be eligible to ultimately receive a benefit (vested) without regard to future service on the date of your divorce. No payment will be issued to your ex-spouse until you begin receiving retirement benefits from MPERS.

Before MPERS can divide your benefit, a court of competent jurisdiction must issue a *Division of Benefits Order* (DBO). There may be other alternative methods available to divide the value of your retirement benefit. Ask your attorney about your rights and options.

Q. If I get divorced after retirement, can my ex-spouse get part of my MPERS benefit?

A. Yes, your ex-spouse may be awarded up to 50% of the benefit accrued while you were married and earning service credit in MPERS (see answer above). Payments to your ex-spouse will begin the first of the month following receipt of an acceptable DBO.

If you elect a Joint & Survivor option at retirement, survivor benefits will be paid to the spouse named on your *Notice of Retirement* - regardless of your marital status.

The DBO will automatically terminate upon the death of the member or ex-spouse.

Cafeteria Plan and Premiums for Medical Coverage at Retirement

So, you enrolled in the Cafeteria Plan, but then decide to retire before the end of the year.

Q. How do I pay the monthly deductions to the Cafeteria Plan if I decide to retire before the end of the year?

A. Contact your payroll/HR representative. The remaining monthly Cafeteria Plan deductions for that year can be withheld from your last active employee pay check or your annual leave pay-off check. Since you are retiring, the medical premiums withheld will be at the retiree rate.

Q. When will the medical premiums start coming out of my retirement benefit payment from MPERS?

A. If you had a lump sum of premiums deducted from your last active employee pay check to cover the remainder of that year, your first **FULL** retiree medical premium will come out of your **January** benefit payment.

However, if there is an increase in the medical premium from one year to the next, the difference will be withheld from your December benefit payment. Monthly medical premiums are paid in advance. That means the premium you pay one month is for medical coverage the following month. Any difference in the retiree rate for the year in which you retire and the retiree rate for the following year will be withheld from your December benefit payment (*the December premium is for January coverage*).

Example of Someone Retiring Before the End of Cafeteria Plan Year (for illustrative purposes only):

Date of Retirement..... August 1, 2013
2013 Retiree Medical Premium.....\$200 per month
2014 Retiree Medical Premium.....\$250 per month

- Your employer will withhold \$1,000 medical premiums for August - December ($\$200 \times 5 \text{ months} = \$1,000$)
- MPERS will withhold \$50 from your December benefit payment to cover the new premium ($\$250 - \$200 = \$50$)
- MPERS will start withholding the full medical premium of \$250 in January

Monthly Benefit Payment

Q. I currently get paid twice a month. When does MPERS pay retirement benefits?

A. Benefits are paid on the last working day of each month. By electing direct deposit, your benefit payment will be deposited electronically in your account that day. Direct deposit is the fastest and safest way of receiving your monthly benefit payment.

Q. When will I be eligible for retirement?

A. You will be eligible for retirement once you meet the applicable age and service requirements for your retirement plan (i.e. Closed Plan, Year 2000 Plan, or 2011 Tier).

The easiest way to determine when you can retire is by looking at a benefit estimate. For your convenience, benefit estimates are provided:

- In your *Annual Benefit Statement*
- When you attend a Pre-Retirement Seminar
- Online through Secure Member Access

That's right! You can run a benefit estimate online whenever you wish. Simply log on to MPERS' website at **www.mpers.org**, click on **Estimate a Benefit** and follow the instructions. If you are just looking for a list of the age and service requirements, click on **Retirement Eligibility**.




See website screen shots on pages 10-11 of this newsletter.




Who Should You Contact?



It Can Be So Confusing!

Isn't it frustrating when you call MPERS with a medical-related question and we give you another number to call? With multiple benefit providers, how do you know who to contact with questions? Below is a list of each provider and the type of benefits they administer.

	 MPERS <small>MoDOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System</small>	 (MoDOT) Employee Benefits	 (MSHP) Employee Benefits
Type of Benefits Administered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retirement and survivor benefits Long-term and work-related disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical and optional life insurance (Dental & vision coverage are handled by MCHCP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical and optional life insurance (Dental & vision coverage are handled by MCHCP)
Mailing Address	PO Box 1930 Jefferson City, MO 65102-1930	PO Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270	PO Box 568 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0568
Office Address	1913 William St. Jefferson City, MO 65109	105 W. Capitol Ave. Jefferson City, MO 65101	1510 East Elm Jefferson City, MO 65101
Phone Number	(573) 298-6080 (800) 270-1271	(877) 863-9406 ext. 3	(573) 526-6136 (573) 526-6356
Website	www.mpers.org	www.modot.mo.gov/newsandinfo/benefits.htm	www.modot.mo.gov/newsandinfo/benefits.htm

 Deferred Compensation	 Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan	MO Cafe State of Missouri Cafeteria Plan	 Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 457 Tax-Deferred Savings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental and vision coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-tax program for insurance premiums, health care expenses, and dependent care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confidential counseling Helps individuals address an array of person life issues
ICMA-RC Workflow Management Team PO Box 96220 Washington, DC 20090	PO Box 104355 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4355	ASI Flex PO Box 858 Columbia, MO 65205-0858	
3349 American Dr, Suite A Jefferson City, MO 65109	832 Weathered Rock Court Jefferson City, MO 65101	201 W. Broadway #4C Columbia, MO 65203	
(573) 893-1053 (800) 392-0925	(573) 751-8881 (800) 487-0771	(800) 659-3035	(800) 808-2261
www.moderredcomp.org	www.mchcp.org	www.mocafe.com	www.guidanceresources.com